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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9592
INFO RHMFIUU/HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY

UNCLAS ZAGREB 000625

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EUR/SCE EUCOM FOR J-4 AND J-5

E.O. 12958: N/A TAGS: <u>MARR MASS</u> <u>HR</u>

SUBJECT: POST SUPPORTS 1206 PROPOSAL FOR AVIATION PARTNER

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN CROATIA FOR FY10

11. The Ambassador supports ODC Croatia's 1206 proposal, coauthored with SOCEUR, for FY10 - "Aviation Partner Development Program" in Croatia. The equipment and training in the proposal will help address the significant shortfall of rotary wing support available to NATO forces for out-of-area operations. Croatia has already taken the concrete step of sending two of their new Mi-171sh helicopters and their crews to KFOR in April 2009. The proposal will further develop a deployable helicopter capability by improving the survivability of the helicopter in less permissive missions and by training the helicopter crews to a higher standard, to include flying with night-vision devices.

12. Post is not aware of any credible evidence of gross violations of human rights by the units who are proposed to receive assistance.

13. The POC for this project is ODC Chief LTC Chuck Davis 385-1-661-2223, email - davisce2@state.gov.

FOLEY